

A BRIEF LIFE SKETCH
OF
SHRI SATGURU
RAM SINGHJI MAHARAJ

By
MAHARAJ GURDIAL SINGH

Rs. 1.

...verence
NAMDHARI VIDYAK JATHA
NEW DELHI





Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-library

Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-library has been created with the approval and personal blessings of Sri Satguru Uday Singh Ji. You can easily access the wealth of teaching, learning and research materials on Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-library online, which until now have only been available to a handful of scholars and researchers.

This new Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-library allows school children, students, researchers and armchair scholars anywhere in the world at any time to study and learn from the original documents.

As well as opening access to our historical pieces of world heritage, digitisation ensures the long-term protection and conservation of these fragile treasures. This is a significant milestone in the development of the Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-Library, but it is just a first step on a long road.

Please join with us in this remarkable transformation of the Library. You can share your books, magazines, pamphlets, photos, music, videos etc. This will ensure they are preserved for generations to come. Each item will be fully acknowledged.

To continue this work, we need your help

Your generous contribution and help will ensure that an ever-growing number of the Library's collections are conserved and digitised, and are made available to students, scholars, and readers the world over. The Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji E-Library collection is growing day by day and some rare and priceless books/magazines/manuscripts and other items have already been digitised.

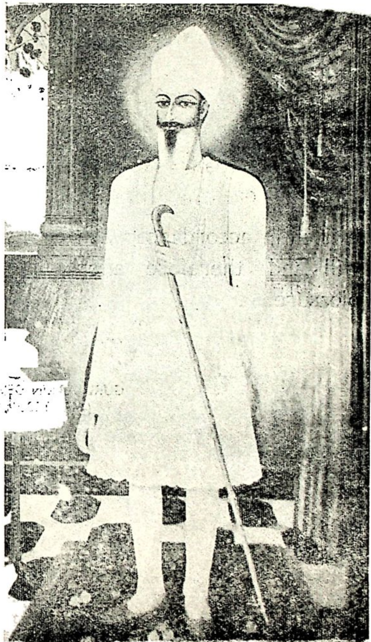
We would like to thank all the contributors who have kindly provided items from their collections. This is appreciated by us now and many readers in the future.

Contact Details

For further information - please contact

Email: NamdhariElibrary@gmail.com

kirpal singh chana



It is all in accordance with God's will and therefore affords me pleasure

GURU ARJUN DEV
(MARTYRDOM)

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time ;
Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main;
A forlorn or shipwrecked brother,
Seeing shall take heart again.

H. W. Longfellow

To know that truth is the essence of all religions and to hold on to it in the face of dire opposition: to know that righteousness makes a man a man and a nation a nation and to stick to it through thick and thin: to feel for the oppressed and to forgo all pleasure and comfort in order to root out the causes of oppression and tyranny; to sacrifice all that is dear and precious for the emanicipation of the afflicted brother is to be a leader such as the world sees very rarely.

Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was in the line of great spiritual leaders of world, but he had vivified his spiritualism with action and sacrifice. After the downfall of the Sikh Government, when uttar demoralisation had set in among the Sikhs, Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji reanimated into them the spirit of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh and chalked out a programme of action to train them in the mission which the Gurus had come to fulfil.

Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji appeared at Bhaini Sahib on the sixth of Magh (according to the Lunar system) Sambat 1872 (Bikarmi). His fortunate parents were Baba Jassa Singh Ji and Mata Sada Kaur Ji. Nobody knew that Baba Jassa Singh Ji's Son would be a great prophet or a great incarnation of God. Satguru Hari Singh Ji

who was four years younger than Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was born on the eleventh of Assuj, 1876 (Bikarmi). Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was highly respected by the old and the wise of generation of those time. He was engaged to Mata Jassan Ji in 1877 (Bikarmi) and was married a year later.

From his early infancy Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji had begun to evince signs of wisdom, and sagacity. He grew into a handsome young lad, liked by everyone for his modesty. Calm and serene nature, He was very thoughtful in his youth, and was often seen absorbed in contemplation. Those who have seen Him have described Him as a stalwart handsome figure, with a broad forehead, round face, beautiful eyes, Sharp nose, thin delicate lips, raised neck, long arms, and a robust build.

In Sambat 1894 through the agency of His brother-in-law, Jamadar Kabul Singh, He was enlisted in the army of Raja Nau Nihal Singh. Here in the army. He met Baba Jamit Singh Gill, whom He used to call a half Sikh. The Sikh army was escorting the state treasury to Peshawar. When they reached near Hazron, the soldiers sought permission from their commander to pay a visit to great prophet of Hazron, (Guru Balak Singh Ji). The permission was granted and some twenty-five or thirty men started for paying respect to him. When Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji met the venerable old Guru he treated Him with exceptional respect and regard. The Old Guru is said to have uttered on this occassion the memorable words, "I have long been waiting for the twelth custodian of the Great Trust. You have come now. Take it and guide the people". The regular ceremony

was performed with five pice and a cocoanut and Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was vested with the sacred leadership. Twenty-five more Sikhs were initiated into the brotherhood on this occassion. Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji returned to the army. but was quite changed. In spite of a turbulent struggle within Him He looked more serene and contemplative then ever.

When the Sikhs were to start for the battle of Mudki in 1903 (Bikarmi) He was asked to pray for success. He stood for some time, facing the sun in a mood of ecstacy and declared. "Pray or do not pray the Sikhs are not going to win". The prophecy proved true.

. When the Sikhs were about to fight at Mudki, Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji threw off his gun into the river (Sutluj), and said that He had thrown it then, and others would throw theirs later on. Thus ended His military career. He return to Bhaini Sahib where He had a supernatural call to devote Himself entirely to convert people to his own religion.

Bhai Labh Singh who was blind, paid respect to Sri Satguru Ji in a dream and immediately left for Bhaini Sahib. Though he was blind and one of the early disciples turned in preaching his master's gospel even in the remotest parts of India. Baba Atma Singh of Alomahar was notable addition to the Sect.

On the 1st of Baishakh 1914 (Bikarmi). Baba Labh Singh Surma, Baba Naina Singh of Waryah, Baba Kahan Singh of Chak and Baba Sundar Singh of Madhaur proceeded to Bhaini Sahib to take the name of God from Him.

The following sermons were delivered to them for . their guidance.

1. The highest purpose of life is to worship God sitting at the feet of the living Guru.
2. Gurus are indispensable in all the period of human history.
3. Piety and not the sword will rule in the present age.
4. Nations and countries owe their strength to love and unity in their ranks.
5. "Havan" and "Yagya" make the country prosperous and bring down rains when needed.
6. High character, simple food, and purity of throught raise the moral level of society.
7. It is a sin to injure any living being by thought word and deed.
8. To help the weak is a service done to God.
9. Hospitality is one of the principal duties of a Namdhari.
10 To Protect and to breed cows is the highest duty of a Namdhari.
11. To drink wine and to take meat is a sin of sins.
12. Do not castrate bulls, as it would check their further growth.
13. Do not sell or kill a girl or exchange her.
14. Never fail to pay your debts.
15. It is not proper to give a dowry on a girl's Marriage.
16. Marriage of girl below the age of sixteen or that of a boy below the age of eighteen is forbidden.
17. Avoid Government schools, because they Anglicize you.
18. Abstain from foreign things, because they are de-

trimental to indigenous.

19. The universal use of Khaddar is bound to remove poverty in this country.
20. You shouid obey God and your true spiritual guide (Satguru)
21. Settle your disputes by arbitration.
22. Respect all great men whether they be yours, or of other nations.
23. Help all the Sikhs to your utmost ability, because they are the true manifestations of the Gurus.
24. Honour your country with all your heart and never dishonour it.
25. Regard the Granth Sahib composed by the Gurus as your holy book.
26. Do not accept either food, clothing or anything else from a person who has not become a Namdhari.

One day Sri Satguru Ji ordered Bhai Rai Singh to go to Hazoor Sahib (Nander, Haydrabad State) to recite the Granth Sahib and bring back full report of the rules observed by the Sikhs in-charge of the Sikh Temple (Gurudwara). Bhai Rai Singh in obedience to Sri Satguru Ji's order left for Hazoor Sahib.



On travelling one thousand miles he met another traveller who accompanied him. Bhai Rai Singh had asked him enroute to Hazoor Sahiab to stay at a Chaukee, but he replied that people who wear shorts were cowards. He according to the advice of his companion, stayed in the open forest. At the end of first watch, he noticed that his companion was attacked by a lion. Bhai Rai Singh was afraid of the lion and prayed Sri Satguru Ji to rescue him. Shri Satguru Ji approached the spot, where Bhai

Rai Singh was, absorbed in prayer. He (Sri Satguru Ji) ordered him to go to chaukee in His presence. After making an obeisance to Sri Satguru Ji he left for the chaukee. He in due course reached Hazoor Sahib where he recited the Granth Sahib, and watched the rules of the tenth Guru observed by the people.

After three and a half months, Sri Satguru Ji appeared to him in a dream and ordered him to return to Bhaini Sahib. Bhai Rai Singh took leave from the office-bearers of the Sikh Temple to return to Bhaini Sahib. As soon as he travelled seven hundred and twenty five miles from Hazoor Sahib, he went without food for thirty six hours. He was not allowed to go a begging. He was thirsty and went to a well where he found a bag full of money. He thought of returning it to the rightful owner. When he was very uneasy, he learnt that the bag full of money was meant for him, and in due course reached Bhaini Sahib.

Another miracle of Sri Satguru Ji that is connected with *Padhri Wali Mai* who was a Vedantist, and became a Namdhari. According to his order at Hardwar she plunged into fire which was ablaze, but which did not hurt her.

He took the initiative in extending Sikh baptism to women and He made them wear shorts. The Anand form of marriage remained a dead-letter untill Sri Satguru Ji advocated it. The first marriage performed according to the Anand marriage form was that of Bhai Samund Singh's daughter at Haripur (Khote). District Ferozpur. He preached liberty, equality and fraternity. Simplicity, sincerity, cleanliness and the innovation of God's name and

His commandments. He tought His followers how to live simply and wear *Swadeshi*. "Simplicity all round was His motto."

He found western influence detrimental to the simple living of His countrymen and to the solidarity and integrity of His motherland and protested vehemently against the onward march of European culture in India He looked askance at the introduction of the foreign manufactured articles, especially the foreign cloth, and advocated the use of Swadeshi. Naturally the movement of non-co-operation with the foreigners, that he had started could not be appreciated by the Government and strong measures were adopted to stop the newly started compaign. Sri Satguru Ji was interned to stop the publicity of His views at Bhaini Sahib and therefore He appointed five Subas :—

1. Baba Jawahar Singh Ji. (Nihang Singh Ji).
2. Baba Sahib Singh Ji.
3. Baba Kahan Singh Ji.
4. Baba Lakha Singh Ji.
5. Baba Darbara Singh Ji.

They were also interned. He then appointed seventeen more Subas :—

1. Baba Aroor Singh Ji.
2. Baba Man Singh Ji.
3. Baba Bhagwan Singh.
4. Baba Sarmukh Singh.
5. Baba Giani Singh.

6. Baba Raja Singh,
7. Baba Jameet Singh.
8. Baba Burma Singh.
9. Baba Hukama Singh.
10. Baba Malook Singh.
11. Baba Narain Singh.
12. Baba Pahara Singh.
13. Baba Jota Singh.
14. Baba Khush Hal Singh.
15. Baba Samund Singh.
16. Baba Khazan Singh.
17. Baba Gopal Singh.

Unfortunately the orthodex Sikhs did not welcome His reforms. Everyday the opposition in the community began to increase. It is said that Sri Satguru Ji visited Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, but the priests did not accept His sacred offerings, and did not allow Him in. The priests told, that, he could enter the Sikh Temple on fulfiling the following conditions. They asked Him to discontinue conversion to Namdharism and should not regard Himself as one of the Sikh Spiritual Guides (GURUS). To prohibit his disciples from resorting to ecstacy. To pay one lac rupees as penalty for past misdeed. On observing the aforesaid conditions His sacred food *(Karah Parshad)* could be accepted. Sri Satguru Ji replied that He acted according to the will of God and therefore was not in a position to do as the Priest wished. He wanted them to prove His guilt. But they were unable to do so. He recited Sikh litany and distributed the sacred food.

An unfortunate incident occured at Maler Kotala. An ordinary quarrel between a Namdhari Sikh and a

butcher took a serious turn, and as a result of it a riot took place at Maler Kotla. It is said that eighty Namdhari Sikhs, who participated in that riot were shot dead under the order of the Govornment without trial.

The Government fonnd that the followers of Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji were becoming stronger day by day, and making the riot of Maler Kotla an excuse, ordered the deportment of Sri Satguru Ji, with some of His Subas to Allahabad under Regulation III of 1818.

Sahib Singh, Lakha Singh, Jawahar Singh Subas and His attendent Nanoo Singh accompanied Him. After some days Sri Satguru Jin was transferred to Rangoon and Nanoo Singh attended Him, and the Subas were sent to various unknown places. After this Sri Satguru Ji with Nanoo Singh was taken to Margoi (Lower Burma). His end is not known. The Namdharis (those recite the name of God) i.e., the followers of Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji believe that Satguru Ji is still alive and will come back to rescue His followers and countrymen.

The Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana declared on behalf of the Government that Satguru Ji had died in 1885. Sardar Alim Singh a retired S.D.O. contradicted this statement and said that he had long chat with H.m, when he was in police custody in Burma. S. Alim Singh was blessed by Sri Satguru Ji and he was told by him, that he would be a great man. Notwithstanding the repeat ed requests of Namdharis the Government kept quiet. This fact amply proves that Sri Satguru Ji was alive after the official declaration at Ludhiana.

Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was in short
Warrior sung by Wordsworth.

> "*Whom neither shape of danger can dismay*
> *Nor thought of tender happiness betray;*
> *This is the happy warrior this he*
> *That every man in arms should wish to be*"

---

butcher t

took p

dha

d



